

Message Text

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY (SECTO 19019)

AF:CJAMES

IO:SWLEWIS

S/S- RGAMBLE

EA:WGLEYSTEEN (KOREA ONLY)

S:STAFF DPASSAGE

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O R 300029Z JUL 76 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 188796

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, US,IV

SUBJECT: COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT: LETTER FROM THE
SECRETARY

1. PLEASE DELIVER TEXT OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE
SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY. IT IS NOT RPT
NOT PLANNED TO SEND SIGNED ORIGINALS.

2. BEGIN TEXT. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: GOVERNOR SCRANTON
HAS INFORMED ME OF THE CORDIAL AND USEFUL TALK HE HAD
WITH YOU DURING HIS RECENT VISIT. I CONSIDER HIS TRIP
AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIP OF THE
UNITED STATES WITH THE IVORY COAST AND THE NATIONS OF
AFRICA, AND WELCOME THE SERIOUS AND OPEN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
WHICH HE HAD WITH YOU AND OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS. I
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ALSO GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR RECEPTION OF ASSISTANT

SECRETARY SCHAUFLE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF OUR MOST VALUABLE EXCHANGE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA.

GOVERNOR SCRANTON DISCUSSED WITH YOU SEVERAL ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES WHICH ARE LIKELY TO COME UP IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS PRIOR TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND AT THE ASSEMBLY ITSELF. OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO US ARE THE QUESTIONS OF PUERTO RICO AND KOREA. I WANT TO REINFORCE WHAT GOVERNOR SCRANTON SAID BY PERSONALLY STATING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THESE TWO SUBJECTS.

ON PUERTO RICO, OUR POLICY IS BASED ON COMPLETE ACCEPTANCE OF PUERTO RICO'S RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO APPROVED THEIR CONSTITUTION AND COMMONWEALTH STATUS IN 1952, AND REAFFIRMED THAT CHOICE IN A 1967 REFERENDUM. THE UNITED NATIONS EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED THE SELF-GOVERNING STATUS OF PUERTO RICO AND REMOVED PUERTO RICO FROM THE LIST OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES IN 1953. WE ASSURED THE UNITED NATIONS AT THAT TIME, THAT, IF THE PUERTO RICAN LEGISLATURE SHOULD ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF INDEPENDENCE AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE, THE PRESIDENT WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE CONGRESS THAT INDEPENDENCE BE GRANTED.

IN VIEW OF THIS, DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO'S STATUS BY ANY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OR ASSEMBLY WOULD BE AN UNWARRANTED INTRUSION INTO THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF PUERTO RICO. THE UNITED STATES CAME INTO POSSESSION OF VARIOUS NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS CENTURY, AND EACH HAS BEEN ABLE TO CHOOSE THE COURSE IT WISHED TO FOLLOW. THE PHILIPPINES CHOSE INDEPENDENCE IN 1947; HAWAII CHOSE STATEHOOD; AND PUERTO RICO CHOSE A SPECIAL COMMONWEALTH RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. WHICH CONTINUES TO EVOLVE. SO LONG AS THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO WISH TO CONTINUE THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES, ANY DISCUSSION OF THIS RELATIONSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS CAN ONLY BE OFFENSIVE TO US AND THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO. PRESIDENT FORD MADE THIS POINT WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS IN JUNE

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WHEN HE VISITED PUERTO RICO AND SAID THAT THOSE WHO MIGHT BE INCLINED TO INTERVENE IN OUR FREELY DETERMINED RELATIONS SHOULD KNOW THAT SUCH AN ACT WOULD BE CONSIDERED INTERVENTION IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF PUERTO RICO AND THE UNITED STATES. I AM PLEASED TO LEARN FROM GOVERNOR SCRANTON THAT YOU UNDERSTAND OUR STRONG FEELINGS IN THIS MATTER. IN VIEW OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE IVORY COAST IN THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF P4 AND THE

NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, YOU ARE IN A KEY POSITION TO PREVENT EXPLOITATION OF THE QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO'S STATUS BY THOSE WHO MAY WISH TO RAISE IT IN THESE BODIES FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES. I HOPE I WILL HAVE YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION IN THIS REGARD AGAIN.

WITH REGARD TO KOREA, WE DO NOT, AND WE BELIEVE MOST UN MEMBERS DO NOT, WISH TO SEE THE KOREAN ISSUE BECOME AGAIN A WASTEFUL CONTROVERSY DIVERTING THE ENERGIES OF THE UNGA. YOUR ACTION IN THE UNGA LAST YEAR REFLECTED YOUR FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THIS POINT. HOWEVER, IF IMPORTANT GROUPS WITHIN THE U.N. MEMBERSHIP ACCEDE TO PRESSURES TO ENDORSE THE NORTH KOREAN POSITION--SUCH AS ABOLISHING THE ARMISTICE MACHINERY OR ALTERING THE MILITARY BALANCE WHICH HAS PRESERVED PEACE FOR 23 YEARS--IT IS ALMOST INEVITABLE THAT WE WILL AGAIN BE FACED WITH A

CHALLENGE IN THE UNGA TO WHICH WE WILL BE OBLIGED TO RESPOND ENERGETICALLY. FOR THIS REASON, I BELIEVE STATES-MEN WOULD DO A SERVICE TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN THAT AREA BY ADVOCATING A CONCILIATORY POSTURE BY THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED AND THE RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOGUE TO WHICH THE PARTIES AGREED IN 1972.

ON JULY 22 I PUBLICLY RENEWED MY PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE OF INTERESTED PARTIES ON KOREA SUGGESTING THAT IT TAKE PLACE THIS FALL AND THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE STARTED IMMEDIATELY. I HOPE YOU WILL GIVE CAREFUL AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO THIS PROPOSAL AS IT MAY RELATE TO FUTURE INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THIS ISSUE. AMBASSADOR SMITH WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE TEXT OF MY PROPOSAL.

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SINCE THERE IS WITHIN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UN A WIDE RANGE OF VIEWS ON PUERTO RICO AND KOREA, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN PREVENTING CONTENTIOUS POSITIONS FROM EMERGING ON EITHER ISSUE AT COMING MEETINGS; IN THE FIRST CASE BY AVOIDANCE OF THE ISSUE ALTOGETHER AND IN THE SECOND BY SUPPORTING A POSITION ENUNCIATING GENERAL PRINCIPLES WHICH CAN PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR CONCILIATION BETWEEN THE KOREAN PARTIES. RESPECTFULLY, HENRY A. KISSINGER. END TEXT.

3. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO TREAT FOREGOING AS PRIVILEGED, PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SECRETARY AND RECIPIENT. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO DISCOURAGE GOIC FROM RELEASE IF ISSUE IS RAISED.

4. YOU SHOULD HAVE PRESIDENT'S PUERTO RICO SPEECH
(STATE 159059) AVAILABLE IN EVENT THERE IS INTEREST
IN SOURCE OF PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT TO WHICH MESSAGE
REFERS.

KISSINGER

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NNN

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